

Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, Excerpts from the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board of Directors, September 25, 1901--May 12, 1903

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Having read Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Minutes of Board of Directors Meetings (also meetings of subordinate committees of the Board of Directors and meetings of the D&H Stockholders), September 25, 1901-- May 12, 1903 (meetings held in the Office of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, New York City), we have selected therefrom, for presentation here, data and facts that are important in the history of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad which are not generally known about the D&H or which are not reported in public or private documents or archives.

1) **Charles A. Peabody Elected D&H Manager:** October 30, 1901: "The Board then proceeded to the election of a Manager in the place of Mr. Alfred Van Santvoord deceased. In accordance with the action of the Executive Committee, Mr. Orr nominated Mr. Charles A. Peabody, and on motion, duly seconded, he was unanimously elected."

2) **D&H Cortlandt Street Building Valuation:** October 30, 1901: "The President informed the Board that the assessed valuation of the Company's Cortlandt Street building had been advanced to \$1,150,000.00 and suggested the advisability of fixing a price at which the Company would dispose of it. Upon motion, duly seconded, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee to consider and report."

3) **D&H Contribution in Support of Christmas Festival for Children of Miners:** November 27, 1901: "He [the President] also stated that he had received an appeal from the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Forest City, Pa., for a contribution towards a Christmas festival for the children of miners in that vicinity, who are under age, and recommended an appropriation of \$50 for that purpose, which, upon motion, was authorized, such amount to be charged to the Special Fund."

4) **Promotions and Salary Increases Approved by Managers:** December 24, 1901: "The Second Vice President recommended that James MacMartin, now Assistant Engineer of the Company, should be made Chief Engineer, with a salary of \$4,500 per annum; that J. R. Slack, now Assistant Superintendent of Motive Power, should be made Superintendent of Motive Power, with a salary of \$4,000 per annum; and that the salary of Paul Wadsworth, General Freight Agent, should be made \$6,500 per annum—all effective January 1, 1902, and upon motion, duly seconded, it was so ordered."

5) **Representative of Anthracite Region Committee of YMCA to Work in and about D&H Collieries:** December 24, 1901: "The President presented a proposition from the Anthracite Region Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Pennsylvania for this Company to assume the expense of a man to work, under its auspices, among the employees in and about our collieries, at a cost of not over \$80.00 per month--\$60.00 for salary and \$20 for expenses. Upon motion, duly seconded, this matter was referred to the President, with power, with the

understanding that, if authorized, the amount should be charged to the fund provided by the stockholders for such purposes."

6) Anthracite Production and Profit Numbers for 1901: January 29, 1902: "Annual Report [dated December 31, 1901] of the Managers to the Stockholders for the year 1901: "The production of coal was larger than for any previous year, the total for the whole anthracite region being 53,568,601 tons, of which the property of your Company [the D&H] produced 4,667,387.06 tons, and The Hudson Coal Company produced 388,005.12 tons; Total Tons, 5,055,392.18; Net Earnings, \$4,604,076.03."

7) Change of Grade between East Windsor and Nineveh a Success: January 29, 1902: "Annual Report [dated December 31, 1901] of the Managers to the Stockholders for the year 1901: "The New Line, change of grades, new tracks, &c., between East Windsor and Nineveh, charged to 'Railroad Construction', have made possible a material increase in the number of tons of freight hauled per train, and have greatly facilitated the movement of trains. As this part of the road is heavily burdened with traffic, the value of this economic feature can readily be appreciated."

8) D&H Albany Building Not Large Enough to Meet Company Needs: February 26, 1902: "The Second Vice President stated that owing to the overcrowded condition of the Albany building, additional room is absolutely necessary for the proper conduct of the Company's affairs and regard for sanitary conditions, and recommend the erection of a building, to correspond with the present one, on the unoccupied part of the lot, about 40 x 60 feet, stating that the cost would be about \$56,000.00. Upon motion, duly seconded, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee with power."

Meeting of the Executive Committee, March 12, 1902: "The Second Vice President presented plans and bids for the erection upon the remainder of the lot now partly occupied by our present office building, of an addition thereto of the same general character and appearance. / Upon motion, duly seconded, it was Resolved—That the recommendation of the Second Vice President, endorsed by the President, for an addition to the present [D&H] Albany office building, be and the same hereby is approved and adopted, and that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder for the sum of \$52,000."

9) Three Spans of the Green Island Bridge Must Be Replaced: May 7, 1902, Meeting of Railroad Committee (Messrs. Hayes, Willcox and the President): "The President submitted a letter from H. G. Young, Sec. and Vice President, stating the necessity of replacing three spans of the Green Island Bridge which are not strong enough to carry the present style of heavy engines, giving an estimate of the weight and expense of the required structure, the latter about \$80,400.00 and recommending that immediate steps be taken in the matter owing to the length of time before the material could be delivered. / Upon motion, duly seconded, Mr. Young was authorized to proceed with the reconstruction forthwith."

10) Pension Awarded to G. W. Rhodes: June 25, 1902: "The President (Mr. Olyphant) submitted an application from G. W. Rhodes for a pension, stating that he is now 76 years old and incapacitated for further work, that he has been faithful and diligent in the service of the Company on the Canal for fifty-five years, and that his wages were insufficient to enable him to make

provision for his declining years, and recommended that he should be allowed a pension of \$30 a month, to take effect from the first of June. Upon motion, duly seconded, this recommendation was adopted."

11) Former D&H Employees at Weehawken Awarded Extra Compensation: September 24, 1902: "The President stated that, owing to the discontinuance of our business at Weehawken, in consequence of our agreement with the Hillside Coal & Iron Co., a number of our employees for many years in the service of the Company, would be thrown out of work, and suggested that the circumstances justified the payment to them of some extra compensation in recognition of their long and faithful services. Upon motion, duly seconded, the matter was referred to the President with power."

12) Delaware and Hudson Company and Adirondack Railway Company Now Merged: October 29, 1902: "Upon motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted affecting the merger of the Adirondack Railway Company with this Company. / Whereas, The Adirondack Railway Company was organized for and now is engaged in business similar and incidental to that of The Delaware and Hudson Company and the Delaware and Hudson Company has acquired and now lawfully owns all the stock of said Adirondack Railway Company and desires to merge the said Adirondack Railway Company and to be possessed of all the estate, property, rights, privileges and franchises of said Corporation. / Resolved – That the Delaware and Hudson Company merge and it hereby does merge said Adirondack Railway Company. / Resolved That the officers of this Company be and they hereby are directed to make and execute under the common seal of this Company and to file in the office of the Secretary of State a certificate of such ownership and of the adoption of this resolution of the Board of Directors of this Company to merge the said Adirondack Company."

13) Repairs Authorized to D&H Building in Olyphant Used for a Kindergarten: November 26, 1902: "The President stated that he had authorized repairs, costing about \$50 to one of the Company's buildings in Olyphant, used for a kindergarten school, the same to be charged to the fund set aside for such purposes by the stockholders, which, upon motion, duly seconded, was approved and confirmed."

14) Death of D&H Manager, William H. Tillinghast: December 31, 1902: "The following minute was offered with regard to the death of Mr. W. H. Tillinghast, and, upon motion, duly seconded, was unanimously adopted. / This Board has learned with great sorrow of the death, on the 9th of December, 1902, of its friend and associate, Mr. William H. Tillinghast, who was long and honorably connected with the management of this Company; and we take this opportunity of putting in permanent form our appreciation of his worth as a man and our regard for him as a friend. / When elected a Manager, in 1888, his long experience in all matters pertaining to the business of the Company gave him unusual opportunities for usefulness, which he exercised unreservedly and with great efficiency in the consideration of all questions affecting the interests and welfare of its prosperity. . . We shall always cherish his memory as a true friend and helpful adviser."

15) Pensions Approved for Three D&H Canal Workers: December 31, 1902: "The President stated that he had received the following applications for pensions: From Urban Hamburger, who

was employed for thirty-six years as Master Mechanic and Carpenter at Rondout, Weehawken and on the Canal, and who is the only remaining foreman not already provided for in that way. From Captain Wm. H. Philips, who was in the Company's services about thirty years and received such an injury while in charge of the Barge "Wyoming" in 1878 as ultimately to compel his retirement from service. From Nelson Peters, who was employed as blacksmith in connection with the Canal for over fifty years. / The President stated other circumstances in each of the cases showing them all to have been in every way worthy of this consideration, and upon motion duly seconded, this recommendation was approved."

16) D&H Makes Offer for Ridgewood/Kingston Colliery: March 18, 1903: "Meeting of the Executive Committee: "The proposition to purchase property near Wilkes-Barre, estimated to contain 2,220,000 tons [of coal], known as the Ridgewood or Keystone Colliery, now being operated by the Trader's Coal Company, referred to this Committee by the Board at its last meeting, was considered. After a very full discussion, upon motion, duly seconded, the President was authorized to make an offer of \$250,000.00."

17) Pension Awarded to H. H. Patterson in Northern Railroad Department: March 25, 1903: "Mr. H. G. Young, Second Vice President, recommended the pensioning at \$30 per month, of Mr. H. G. Patterson, now acting as storekeeper of the Northern Railroad Department, who has been in the employ of the Company in various capacities for thirty-nine years and is now seventy-six years old and incapable of performing the duties required by his position. Upon motion, duly seconded, this recommendation was adopted, to take effect April 1, 1903."

18) Retirement of Robert M. Olyphant, President of the Delaware and Hudson Company: May 12, 1903: Annual Meeting of Stockholders: "At this point President Robert M. Olyphant made the following remarks: "I have had the pleasure of seeing a number of your faces for a good many years at these meetings. I wish I could have seen more. As it will probably be the last time I shall be with you in this capacity, I wish to thank you for the support you have always given to the administration of the Company at these meetings, and to say, God bless you all." / Upon motion, duly seconded, a vote was unanimously adopted expressing the thanks of the stockholders to Mr. Olyphant for the eminently successful manner in which he has conducted the affairs of the Company for so many years." / May 13, 1903: Special Meeting of the Board: Mr. David Willcox was nominated for president and elected for the ensuing year. "The President then said that he knew it to be the wish of the Board that some action should be taken which would retain for the Company the benefit of the counsel and services of the outgoing President, and suggested that, in accordance with the precedent already established under like circumstances, Mr. Olyphant should be made Chairman of the Executive Committee. Mr. Orr thereupon moved his appointment to that position with a salary of \$15,000 a year, which was duly seconded and unanimously carried. / At this moment a note was received from Mr. Horace G. Young, resigning from the Board. Upon motion, duly seconded, it was referred to the President and Vice President for consideration and report. [At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on May 27, 1903, H. G. Young's resignation was accepted by the Board of Directors.] . . . At the suggestion of the President, and upon motion, duly seconded, the office of Third Vice President and Comptroller was established, that office to have entire charge of all the accounts of the Company, and to perform such other duties as may be designated by the President, and that the salary of the office should be \$10,000 per annum. Mr. A. I. Culver was nominated for this position, and a ballot being taken, he received

the votes of all present and was thereupon duly declared elected to that office for the ensuing year. / . . . At this point a handsome punch bowl and salver, with the following inscription, were brought in and placed upon the table and Mr. Willcox presented it to the retiring President in behalf of the officers and employees whose names it bears: "The unfailing courtesy and kindness of heart of Mr. Robert M. Olyphant toward all of his subordinates and his increasing interest in everything that concerned their best personal welfare during the period from 1876 to the present time, in which he has occupied the highest position in the gift of The Delaware and Hudson Company, have awakened in us feelings of the tenderest and most enduring nature toward him. The officers and clerks in the New York office of the Company therefore present to him this slight and inadequate expression of their high esteem and sincere love in the hope and assurance that the future years of his life may be as full of peace and happiness as the past have been replete with usefulness and inspiration to others."

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